



International Festivals & Events Association

**For Information, Contact:**

**Nia Hovde, VP/Director of Marketing & Communications**

Phone: 208/433-0950 ext: 3 - [nia@ifea.com](mailto:nia@ifea.com)

International Festival & Events Association World Headquarters

Boise, ID – USA Website: [www.ifea.com](http://www.ifea.com)

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# PRESS RELEASE

## **William B. Flinn Inducted into the International Festivals & Events Association Hall of Fame**

**Boise, ID** – The IFEA is pleased to announce that one of the festival and events industry’s finest professionals, William B. Flinn, Executive Director/CEO at the Pasadena Tournament of Roses in Pasadena, CA, U.S.A. was inducted in to the prestigious IFEA Hall of Fame on September 27, 2016 during the IFEA’s 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention, Expo & Retreat, in Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A.



Known as the association’s most prestigious honor, the IFEA Hall of Fame recognizes those outstanding individuals who, through their exceptional work and achievements, have made a significant contribution to the Festivals and Events Industry and a profound difference in the communities they serve. Induction into the Hall of Fame is considered the highest of industry honors. Selected from a group of her industry-peers, Bill joins the prestigious ranks of 57 others inducted into the hall over the past 25 years.

Born in Pennsylvania to Salvation Army officer ministers, it was instilled in Bill Flinn from an early age that the focus on family, faith, community and commitment to others would be the building blocks of personal success. Bill has embraced these tenets with his long career in the festival and special events industry.

Musically trained from a young age, Bill has played, conducted and toured with various bands and vocal ensembles throughout the world. This lifelong commitment to music, in some ways, was a precursor of things to come. In the late 1970’s, Bill ventured to Los Angeles to begin a career in public relations and he also worked with the film and television industry. His drive to support music and volunteerism led him to Pasadena where he directed The Salvation Army Band in the Rose Parade. Bill had become a participant in the very Rose Parade he had watched as a young boy on television on the East Coast.

His community volunteer spirit led him to become a white-suited Tournament of Roses member in 1980. He would man his barricade position in the evening and march in the Parade in the morning. As fate would have it, Bill was offered the position as the public relations director for the Tournament of Roses in 1981 and the rest, as they say, is history.

In recognition of his years of dedicated service, Bill was chosen by the Association’s leadership to become the Executive Director in 2011. His elevation caps a career spanning more than three decades but his work will continue through his retirement on April 30, 2017 and beyond.

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For an in depth look at William B. Flinn, [Click Here](#).

Past inductees include Dan Mangeot, CFEE (D), Kentucky Derby Festival (1992), George Zambelli (D), Zambelli Fireworks (1993), John H.B. "Jack" French, Pasadena Tournament of Roses (1996), Jean McFaddin, Macy\*s Parade and Events (1999), Robert (Bob) Jackson(D), Consultant (2003), and most recently Therese St. Onge, National Capital Commission (2006), Mike Berry, CFEE, Kentucky Derby Festival (2008), and Kirk Hendrix, 500 Festival (2010) just to name a few.

Headquartered in Boise, Idaho, the International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA) is *The Premier Association Supporting and Enabling Festival & Event Professionals Worldwide*. In partnership with global affiliates under the umbrellas of IFEA Africa, IFEA Asia, IFEA Australia, IFEA Europe, IFEA Latin America, IFEA Middle East (MENASA), and IFEA North America the organization's common vision is for "A Globally United Industry that Touches Lives in a Positive Way through Celebration," The Association offers the most complete source of ideas, resources, information, education and networking for festival and event professionals worldwide. Visit the IFEA website at [www.ifea.com](http://www.ifea.com) for additional details.

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